28 April 1975

The DCI's Family of National Intelligence Guidance Documents

1. The DCI relies on four major documents to provide guidance to the Intelligence Community on substantive intelligence priorities. They are listed below in ascending order of specificity.

    a. Perspectives for Intelligence

    b. Objectives for the Intelligence Community

    c. Key Intelligence Questions

    d. United States Foreign Intelligence Priorities (usually referred to as DCID 1/2, of which it is an attachment)

2. The first three were initiated by Mr. Colby and are closely interrelated. The Objectives are derived from the Perspectives, and the KIQs are a refinement of the Objectives. The fourth document, in one form or another, has existed since the 1950's and is a prioritized index of the whole gamut of intelligence requirements by topic and geographical area. These documents are normally reviewed and revised annually.

3. Perspectives for Intelligence, 1975-80

    This document was issued by the DCI in July 1974. It consists of three parts. Part I is entitled Major World Problems and describes the world environment in which the Intelligence Community is expected to have to function during the balance of the 1970's. It projects major world trends and forecasts major changes in the world environment.

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4. Part II of the Perspectives paper is entitled the Role of Intelligence. It describes in general terms what are likely to be the major areas of priority and focus, and the major problems, for the Intelligence Community during the coming five years. It attempts to illuminate how intelligence priorities are most likely to change over this time span.

5. Part III is entitled Implications for Planning. It describes management problems which the changing world environment is likely to impose on the Intelligence Community and suggests broad areas of activity that will require special consideration and focus. It is intended to stimulate early action on matters requiring planning, research or development.

6. A revised version of the Perspectives, to cover the period 1976-81, is currently in preparation. Consideration is being given to the inclusion of a fourth section which will attempt, in very general terms, to project world trends, and their implications for intelligence, to the year 2000.

7. Objectives for the Intelligence Community for FY 1975

This document, submitted to the President annually, sets forth the DCI's substantive and management objectives for the Intelligence Community. Although still in a broad framework, intelligence objectives are identified in more specific terms than in the Perspectives paper and are keyed to a one-year time frame. The substantive objectives in this document identify the following priority areas of intelligence interest:

    a. Soviet political, security and economic policies and intentions;

    b. Soviet military and political capabilities to exert influence or power outside the USSR;

    c. Soviet compliance with the Strategic Arms Limitation agreements and the Limited Test Ban Treaty, the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction and similar negotiations;

    d. Internal and external policies and capabilities of the Peoples' Republic of China;

    e. Political, security and economic situations or crises significantly affecting United States interests; and

    f. International economic policy decisions and negotiations relevant to vital interests of the United States.

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10. Ideally, these guidance documents should drive the resource allocation and decision-making process. As such, they should be issued very early in the program development process--January/February each year. Each of the first three documents should build on the previous one, identifying with more precision--as one advances from <u>Perspectives</u> to KIQs--those areas of priority intelligence concern around which resource requirements should be developed. Moreover, visibility should be provided throughout the resource allocation process to the relationship between resource decisions and substantive intelligence requirements. Finally, the Key Intelligence Question Evaluation Process (KEP) should provide some measure of how well we did and further insight into the resource allocation process, as the cycle begins again the following year.

11. Because of the relatively recent origin of these guidance documents and bureaucratic problems involved in meshing them into (or substituting them for) past requirements systems, it has not yet been possible to meet all the criteria of the preceding paragraph. They have already, however, provided to the Community as a whole a common focus which it has never had in the past.